

# **Proceedings**

OF THE

## **SYNOD,**

OF THE

**FREE AND INDEPENDENT**

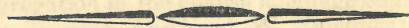
**GERMAN REFORMED CHURCH**

**of Pennsylvania,**

convened in the city of Philadelphia, in the year of  
our Lord, 1830.



“Where the spirit of the lord is, there is liberty.” 2. Cor. 3. 17.



**Philadelphia,**

A. A. Blumer, Printer, 22, Cherry St.

**1830.**



# PROCEEDINGS

of the

## SYNOD

of the Free and Independent German Reformed Church  
of Pennsylvania,

Held in the German Reformed Salems Church at Philadelphia,  
on the 5th, 6th and 7th of September, 1830.



In consequence of a resolution of the Synod of last year, held at Middletown, Dauphin County, the members thereof met in the City of Philadelphia, on the 4th of September, 1830.

On Sunday morning at 10 o'clock the Revd. Herman, President of the Synod, delivered an impressive and appropriate synodical sermon on 1. Cor. 1. 4. 5.

In the after-noon the secretary preached on Gal. 6. 1.

In the evening Revd. Leinbach preached on Gal. 6. 7.

In the german reformed church in Race street, the Revd. A. L. Herman delivered a discourse in the morning from Luke 13. 18. 19.

In the after-noon the Revd. J. C. Guldin entertained the congregation in the english language on Ps. 107. 31.

In the evening, Applicant W. Smidmer preached on Romans 8. 32.

On the same day, the Revd. G. Mills discoursed in Frankford on Ezekiel 33. 11.

In the evening the Revd J. C. Guldin preached in Kensington from 2. Tim. 1. 12.

On Saturday evening previous, Applicant F. E. van der Sloot had spoken in german Salems Church on 1. Peter, 2. 21.

# **FIRST SESSION.**

*Monday, September 6th, 8 o'clock, A. M.*

the Revd. Clergy, with their respective deputies, met in Salems church, for the purpose of transacting their synodical business, and the session was opened by singing a hymn and with prayer by the Revd. President.

## **MEMBERS PRESENT WERE:**

Revd. F. L. Herman, from Montgomery county.  
 C. G. Herman, Cootstown.  
 J. C. Guldin, Chester county.  
 J. S. Dubbs, Bern.  
 T. H. Leinbach, Lebanon county.  
 A. L. Herman, Reading.  
 H. Bibighaus, Philadelphia.  
 S. Seibert, Middletown.  
 J. Steely, Dauphin county.  
 G. Mills, New York.

## **CANDIDATES.**

A. Berke, Lewistown.  
 C. W. Schults, Philadelphia.

## **LAY DELEGATES.**

Mr. John Siegfried. Mr. Jonas Haupt.  
 Daniel Helfrich. Charles Snyder.  
 Andrew Eckert. Christian Spengler.  
 Henry Smith. Peter Raab.  
 Adam Bruner. Isaac Retinger.  
 Isaac Merkley. Samuel Boyer.  
 Solomon Boyer.

## **ABSENT MEMBERS WERE:**

Revd. R. T. Herman, from Douglass township.  
 R. Fisher, Sunbury.  
 J. Althaus, Jefferson.  
 D. S. Tobias, Columbia.  
 A. Schaefer, Meyerstown.  
 — Epert, Virginia.



Applicants for admission into the Synod:

Mr. L. C. B. Herman, of Montgomery county.

F. E. van der Sloot, of Virginia.

F. W. van der Sloot, of York county.

C. W. Wack, of Philadelphia.

W. Smidmer, of New York.

The Revd. President informed the Synod, that an election should be held for officers for the ensuing year.

Whereupon it was on motion of the Revd. Bibighaus unanimously resolved, that the officers of last year are again appointed to serve for one year, viz.

REVD. F. L. HERMAN, PRESIDENT.

C. G. HERMAN, SECRETARY.

GEO. KEMP, ESQ., TREASURER.

The Constitution of this Independent reformed synod was now read.

Hereupon the president requested the Ministers and Lay Delegates present to inform the Synod of the state of Religion and the fruits of the ministry in their respective congregations. They accordingly did so, and it appears by their report, that the church of Christ is flourishing and increasing; that the Gospel is preached pure and undefiled, and that peace, harmony and tranquility prevail in the different congregations, confided to us.

The Minutes of the proceedings of last year, were now read.

The corporation of the German reformed church in Race street presented their claims, to be admitted as members of our Synod; they also presented a call for C. W. WACK as their pastor, and solicited, that he should be ordained by this body.

On motion resolved—that a committee be appointed to take their claims into consideration and make report accordingly. The committee consisted of Revd. J. C.



Guldin, T. H. Leinbach, A. L. Herman and Mssrs. Jonas Haupt, Solomon Boyer and Christian Spengler.

The Secretary presented the Minutes of the REFORMED SYNOD OF OHIO, and the LUTHERAN SYNOD OF TENNESSEE, which were forwarded to him by order of said bodies.

The receipt of the same was thankfully acknowledged and a committee appointed, to take the same into consideration. The committee were Mr. An. Eckert, Revd. J. Dubbs and the secretary.

The committee appointed by the Synod the preceding year, for the purpose of conferring the ordination upon the Revd. G. Mills, reported, that they performed that duty, and ordained him in his church in the city of New York, last autumn.

The committee appointed to ordain Mr. R. T. Herman, reported, that Mr. Herman received the ordination in Amity church, Berks county.

The secretary informed the Synod, that Mssrs. F. W. van der Sloot and F. E. van der Sloot, were both present as applicants, praying for admission as members of this body.

After considerable debate it was resolved, that the further consideration of the application of these gentlemen be postponed to this after-noon.

The committee, to whom was referred the concerns of the German reformed church in Race street, came forward, and, by request of the president, made the following report:

"WE, the committee, to whom was referred the request of the honorable corporation of the church in Race street, that Mr. C. W. Wack should be ordained as their Pastor, report as follows—That, as the said congregation have declared themselves independent, and have connected themselves with this body, and as their circumstances seem to require, that their pastor should be ordained, it is our opinion, that Mr. C. W.

"Wack shall undergo an examination, and if he should  
 "be found competent, that then he is to be ordained in  
 "the presence of his congregation."

J. C. Guldin.	} Committee.
T. H. Leinbach.	
A. L. Herman.	
C. Spengler.	
S. Boyer.	
J. Haupt.	

This report was adopted, and

Resolved—That a committee be appointed to examine Mr. Wack, and that the committee consist of the Revd. J. C. Guldin, T. H. Leinbach and A. L. Herman.

Resolved that the synod adjourn until this after-noon.

Closed with singing and prayer.

## SECOND SESSION.

*Monday, after-noon, at 2 o'clock.*

Opened with singing and prayer.

The Rev. C. W. Schults who received a call from the Kensington congregation made application to be ordained, by virtue of a resolution of the last years Synod.

The committee appointed to examine Mr. Wack, appeared and reported as follows: "We have examined "this gentleman in the Latin, Greek and Hebrew language, also in Theology and Ecclesiastical history and "found him so experienced therein that we recommend "him to the Revd. Synod for ordination."

J. C. Guldin	} Committee.
T. H. Leinbach	
A. L. Herman	

On motion Resolved—That Mr. C. W. Schults and C. W. Wack be ordained to morrow evening in the re-



formed Church in Race Street and that the Revd. F. L. Herman, J. C. Guldin, A. L. Herman and G. Mills be a committee for that purpose.

Resolved—That the Revd. J. C. Guldin deliver an ordination sermon in the English language upon that occasion.

Upon motion of the Revd. Bibighaus the application of the Mssrs. van der Sloot was taken into consideration. After considerable debate it was Resolved: that a committee be appointed to examine the said gentlemen and make report accordingly.—The committee for this purpose were Revd. J. S. Dubbs, T. H. Leinbach and H. Bibighaus.

The Revd. A. L. Herman informed the Synod that Mr. John Clark appeared as an applicant for admission into this Revd. body.

The Revd. G. Mills recommended the admission of Mr. W. Smidmer from New-York into this Synod.

After mature deliberation the Synod Resolved—That the application of these gentlemen be referred to a committee for consideration and that they report accordingly.—The President and the Revd. J. C. Guldin, were placed on this committee.

On motion Resolved—That the Revd. A. Berke, G. Mills and Messrs. J. Siegfried and S. Boyer be appointed a committee to examine and arrange the letters addressed to this Synod.

Resolved—That the Revd. A. Berke, J. Steely and Mr. D. Helfrich be a committee to audit the Treasurers account.

A letter from Revd. Peter Fisher, addressed to the Synod was read and referred to a committee consisting of the Revd. H. Bibighaus and Guldin, and Messrs. A. Eckert and S. Boyer.

Resolved—That the Diaries of the Candidates be referred to a committee and that the Revd. J. Steely, J. S. Dubbs and C. G. Herman be the committee.



Mr. A. Berke one of the Candidates, prayed to be ordained, whereupon it was

Resolved, that Mr. A. Berke be ordained to-morrow evening in Salems church, and that the Revd. Dubbs, Leinbach, Bibighaus and C. G. Herman be a committee for the purpose of ordaining him.

By request of the President, it was resolved, to appoint a committee to examine Mr. L. C. B. Herman between this and the next synodical session; the committee consists of Revd. T. H. Leinbach, J. S. Dubbs and J. C. Guldin.

The Revd. S. Seibert asked and obtained leave of absence.

Here the session closed with singing and prayer.

This evening the Revd. S. Seibert delivered a sermon on John 16. 24.

The Revd. A. L. Herman also preached in the Kensington church upon Luke 19. 14.

### THIRD SESSION.

*Tuesday, 9 o'clock, A. M.*

This session opened with prayer.

The president requested the different committees to make report.

The committee, to whom was referred the letter of the Revd. Peter Fisher, reported, "that they have examined the same, and are of opinion, that it should be passed over without further notice.

H. Bibighaus,	}	Committee.
A. Eckert,		
S. Boyer,		
J. C. Guldin,		

Resolved, that the report be accepted.

The committee, to whom was referred the Diaries of the candidates, reported, "that they were fully satis-

"fied with the same, and have no hesitation in recommending a renewal of their licenses.

J. Steely,  
J. S. Dubbs, } Committee.  
C. G. Herman,

Resolved, that the licenses of the candidates be renewed for one year.

The Revd. HECHT of Easton, and the Revd. UHLHORN of Baltimore appeared and presented to the Synod 20 copies of the Charter of the German College in the city of Lancaster, and were invited by the president to take their seats as honorary members.

The committee to whom was referred the applications of Mr. Clark and Mr. Smidmer, reported: "that they have examined Mr. Clark, and find him well versed in the languages and in Theology — and that they have examined Mr. Smidmer in Theology, and are well satisfied with him. We recommend therefore, that both applicants be accepted by this synod."

F. L. Herman, } Committee.  
J. C. Guldin,

This report was accepted and it was resolved, that the Officers of the Synod grant Candidates-Licence to Messrs. Clark and Smidmer for one year.

The committee appointed to examine Messrs. van der Sloot, report as follows: "We the committee have examined Mr. F. W. and F. E. van der Sloot in the Greek and Latin languages, as well as in theology and ecclesiastical history, and find them experienced therein. We do therefore recommend their ordination, more particularly as we have examined the situation of their congregations as well as their own, and find their ordination necessary."

T. H. Leinbach, } Committee..  
H. Bibighaus,  
J. S. Dubbs.



Resolved, that the Mssrs. van der Sloot be ordained this evening in this [Salems] church.

Resolved, that the Revd. J. S. Dubbs deliver the ordination sermon this evening in this church.

The committee, to whom was referred the proceedings of the REFORMED SYNOD OF OHIO, and the LUTHERAN SYNOD OF TENNESSEE, reported as follows: "In the minutes of the Lutheran synod of Tennessee we found nothing that refers to our synod, more than they have manifested their brotherly love towards us, by transmitting to us their minutes."

"In the minutes of the Reformed Synod of Ohio, we observe the retaining of the names of Revd. Diefenbach and Zeiser in our minutes had excited the attention of that Synod, and that they, as a proof of their brotherly love and friendship, ordered, that 20 copies of their minutes be sent to this body."

J. S. Dubbs,	}	Committee.
A. Eckert,		
C. G. Herman,		

Resolved, that the Secretary be directed to send 20 copies of our minutes to the Luth. Synod of Tennessee.

Resolved, that 20 copies of our Synodical proceedings be sent to the reformed Synod of Ohio, that we cease to use the names of the above mentioned bretheren in our minutes and that the friendly reception of the Revd. C. W. Schults by the Synod of Ohio, has inspired us with gratitude to God.

The committee appointed to audit the Treasurers account. Report: "that they have carefully examined the same and find it to be correct."

Abr. Berke,	}	Committee.
J. Steely,		
D. Helfrich,		



The committee appointed to examine and report on the letters addressed to the Synod, reported as follows:

No. 1. "Is a letter from the Revd. R. Fisher of Sunbury, praying to be excused for his non attendance—likewise it contains a statement of his official duties for the preceding year."

No. 2. "Is a exculpatory letter from the Revd. Althaus, relative to his absence, and also a report of his ministerial transactions."

No. 3. "Is a letter from the Revd. Tobias, wherein he states, that, owing to sickness in his congregations, it is out of his power to attend the Synod at this time, he also invites the Synod to hold their next meeting at Bloomsburg."

No. 4. "Is a letter from Mr. Schæfer a Candidate, in which he ask's indulgence of the Synod for not attending, by stating the reason which occasioned his absence and prays for a renewal of his Licence."

A. Berke } Committee.  
G. Mills }

Resolved, that the Revd. R. Fisher be excused for non attendance.

Resolved, that the Revd. Althaus be also excused.

Resolved, that the Revd. Tobias's excuse is considered satisfactory and that Bloomsburg shall be named when the Election take's place.

Resolved, that the excuse of Mr. Schæfer be accepted and that his licence shall be renewed for one year.

The Secretary informed the Synod, that the Constitution was not yet printed, as he found himself without any authority to have it done.

Whereupon it was resolved that the Revd. F. L. Herman, sen., H. Bibighaus and J. C. Guldin be appointed a committee, to have the Constitution of our synod printed.

On motion resolved, that the secretary send to the Lutheran Synod of Ohio and the Lutheran Synod of Virginia each 20 copies of our minutes.

The session was closed with prayer.

### **FOURTH SESSION.**

*Tuesday, after-noon, at 3 o'clock.*

Commenced with singing and prayer.

Resolved, that the members of this Synod shall annually mention in their official report the post office, through which they transact their business, and how many copies of the minutes, in which or each language they desire.

Resolved, that the officers of the synod prepare the License and Ordination Certificates and transmit them according to the resolution of the synod.

Resolved, that the secretary be authorized to have 700 copies of the Synodical Proceedings printed, viz. 500 in the German, and 200 in the English language, and to forward them to the different Synods and likewise to the members of this body.

The synod now proceeded to choose the place of meeting for the next year. The congregations at Lewistown, Bloomsburg and Reamstown, having invited us in the most friendly manner, those places were respectively nominated for that purpose.

Reamstown, having a majority of votes, was elected.

Resolved, that Reamstown, Lancaster county, be the place of our next meeting, and that the first Sunday in September 1831 be the time.

Resolved, that, after the evening service, the Revd. Dubbs return our cordial thanks to the congregation, in which we are assembled, for the kind reception and entertainment which they rendered us.



The President now requested the Revd. Clergy to forward the STATUS ECCLESIAE.

Resolved, that the Synod now adjourn for this year.

The Synod now sung a suitable hymn to the honor and praise of God, and after prayer, the members were dismissed in the name of the Lord.

This evening the Revd. Dubbs preached in Salems church on 2. Peter, 1. 19.

After which Mssrs. A. Berke, F. E. and F. W. van der Sloot were ordained.

The same time the Revd. J. C. Guldin delivered a sermon in the English language, in the church in Race Street upon Philip 3. 8.

After which the ordination of Messrs. C. W. Schults and C. W. Wack took place.

The above is a true transcript of the original.

Attest

**CHARLES G. HERMAN,**

Secretary p. t.

“Now, the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make us perfect in every good work, to do his will, working in us that which is well pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ: to whom be glory for ever and ever.—  
“Amen.”



**REPORT**

of the

ministerial transactions in the preceding year, &amp;c.

Names of MINISTERS.	Congregations.		Baptised.	Confirmed.	Communicates.	Buried.	Schools.
Rev. F. L. Herman,	5	84	26	540	24	5	
C. G. Herman,	6	205	77	612	30	11	
J. C. Cudin,	6	100	21	268	30	—	
J. S. Dubbs,	4	110	36	466	47	1	
T. H. Leinbach,	6	151	112	635	47	7	
A. L. Herman,	5	143	76	490	35	4	
H. Bibighaus,	2	107	20	441	60	1	
S. Seibert,	2	—	—	—	—	—	
J. Steely,	7	97	18	193	43	5	
R. Fisher,	4	80	10	230	15	4	
D. S. Tobias,	7	105	12	275	25	2	
J. Althaus,	4	36	16	94	11	2	
R. T. Herman,	2	60	—	53	23	1	
A. Schaefer,		59	—	—	12	—	
A. Berke,	4	57	8	89	4	3	
C. W. Schults,	1	—	—	—	—	—	
G. Mills,	1	—	—	—	—	—	
G. Eppert,	1	—	—	—	—	—	
E. F. van der Sloot,	8	—	—	—	—	—	
E. W. van der Sloot,	3	—	—	—	—	—	
C. W. Wack,	1	—	—	—	—	—	
J. Clark,		—	—	—	—	—	
W. Smidmer,		—	—	—	—	—	

*Account of the contributions*

given to the Synod,

Revd. Herman, Sen.	\$ 3,00
C. G. Herman	5,00
J. C. Guldin,	4,00
T. H. Leinbach,	5,66
J. S. Dubbs,	3,00
A. L. Herman,	3,00
H. Bibighaus,	3,00
J. Steely,	1,50
G. Mills,	2,00
A. Berke,	1,00
C. W. Schults,	1,00
F. E. van der Sloot,	1,50
F. W. van der Sloot,	2,00
W. Smidmer,	0,50